

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE



BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0132

January 6, 2015

TO: José Wudka, Chair  
Academic Senate

FROM: Jennifer Doyle, Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: The CHASS Executive committee supports the proposed Open-Access Policy as distributed on September 20, 2012

CHASS faculty and students are particularly affected by the current system insofar as rising costs for access to journals puts pressure on library budgets. This threatens not only ongoing subscriptions but also has impacted the library's ability to purchase books and scholarly monographs—a primary publication format for many of our Humanities faculty. Moreover, as the report indicates, the current publishing model drains financial resources from public institutions and channels these into for-profit companies.

We are committed to the concept of open-access as it reflects the University of California's values as a public institution. We believe that open-access will facilitate dissemination of our ideas and research and will increase the visibility of our faculty members' research on a national and global stage. It will ease our ability to share research findings with colleagues world-wide and creates broader readership. Open-access has the potential to improve the relationship between the UC and the taxpayers of the state of California.

We believe that the opt-out clause included in this proposal, placing the burden on publishers to seek exclusive rights, will protect the ability of individual scholars to publish in any and all journal venues. Our concern is that the unlimited nature of the opt-out clause as currently formulated weakens the potential benefit of the proposal. We are also concerned about the increasingly baroque nature of the process—it is particularly important for faculty preparing themselves for promotion that they have a clear, easy-to-understand set of guidelines regarding the navigation of a system-wide open access policy and, for example, waivers addressing the restrictions of specific academic journals.

A series of questions arise for faculty in CHASS. Ideally, fully resolved, this policy will be more clear and helpful with questions like the following: Where do dissertations fit within this policy (can that be made more explicit)? How does this policy account for scholars who are working with reproductions of

images, poetic texts, lines of music—in many cases, the acquisition of the rights to reproduce works within scholarship is very restrictive. This, likely, will be a cause for a waiver requesting exemption — or some system-wide guidance regarding this situation which is particularly important to scholars working in (for example) art history, music, theater and poetics.

As currently drafted the proposed policy may not be strong enough to bring about the desired result. We acknowledge, however, that it is an important step in the right direction.

Jennifer Doyle, Chair

UCR CHASS Executive Committee